IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 9, line 25 to page 10, line 2 as follows:

The present _invention_ uses the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) technology to centralize storage and retrieval of user passwords. LDAP is suitable for distributed security authentication, because it provides a ready made client-server implementation. A cluster authentication system can be devised simply by making LDAP client API calls from the security routines to store and retrieve data. Therefore, LDAP is well suited for the storing and retrieving users' passwords from a central database.

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